

ACTION WHA-00

UNCLASSIFIED **E9**  
RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	VC-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00
	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-00	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	ECA-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	/004W					

-----D23891 181855Z /38

O 181536Z DEC 03

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4250

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 004370

NSC FOR CBARTON

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/17/2013

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, KDEM, VE

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION READIES RECALL SIGNATURES FOR DELIVERY

REF: A. CARACAS 4223

B. CARACAS 4285

Classified By: Abelardo A. Arias, Political Counselor,  
for Reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

-----  
Summary  
-----

1. (U) Venezuelan opposition groups will deliver on December 19 the signatures collected in support of a recall referendum against President Hugo Chavez, according to Miranda State

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E SINN  
DATE/CASE ID: 24 JUN 2005 200404746

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL  
APPEAL ACTION: ORIGINAL DECISION UPHELD  
REASON(S): B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
DATE/CASE ID: 11 OCT 2007 200404746


UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Governor Enrique Mendoza. The NGO Sumate, which is preparing the collected signatures, announced December 16 the opposition had collected 3,467,050 signatures, less than the 3.6 million originally announced. Responding to rumors and allegations that new rules would be applied, National Electoral Council (CNE) President Francisco Carrasquero announced December 16 that the CNE rules governing the signature verification process of September 25 would stand. End Summary.


-----  
December 19 Delivery Date  
-----

2. (C) Opposition leader and Miranda State Governor Enrique Mendoza told reporters on December 16 the Democratic Coordinating Committee (DCC) would deliver to the National Electoral Council (CNE) on December 19 the signatures petitioning the recall of President Hugo Chavez. Mendoza then led journalists on a tour of NGO Sumate's facility where the final preparations are being made for the delivery.



3. (C) Sumate Representative Maria Corina Machado announced the Opposition plans to deliver to the National Electoral Council (CNE) 3,467,050 signatures, down from the 3.6 million previously announced by the DCC. Machado attributed the decrease to a loss of 130,000 signatures during transfer from collection points to Caracas.

 boxes of signature forms had arrived to Caracas as late as December 16 explaining that some opposition mayors wanted copies of the forms before shipment. The lower figure still would give the opposition a cushion of about one million signatures above the 2.4 million needed.  they estimated about 300,000 signatures might be disqualified during the verification process.



-----  
CNE President Says No New Rules  
-----

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

-----  
5. (C) The CNE had reportedly been considering new rules to define further the verification process in response to GOV allegations of fraud. CNE President Francisco Carrasquero stated publicly on December 16 that the CNE board had unanimously decided not to issue new regulations, leaving in place general rules issued on November 20. [REDACTED]

-----  
GOV Continues the Hunt for Mega-Fraud  
-----

6. (U) Fifth Republic Movement (MVR) Deputy William Lara presented the CNE on December 16 with a reported 6,100 "irregularities" observed during the opposition's signature drive. Tachira Governor Ronald Blanco La Cruz, who has provided many of the examples of fraud cited by President Chavez and his supporters, also took his allegations to the CNE December 17. The pro-GOV campaign committee ("Comando Ayacucho") plans set up 830 kiosks nationwide on December 18 at which citizens can present reports of fraud. The GOV television channel is promoting the event and inviting all Chavez supporters who served as CNE supervisors or witnesses to make a report.

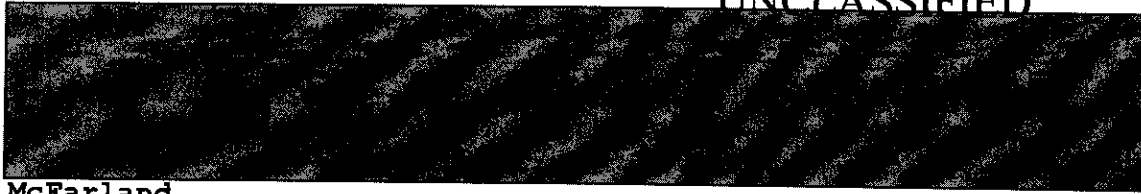
-----  
Comment  
-----

7. (C) The opposition has been criticized and ridiculed by Chavez and his supporters for not yet delivering the signatures collected November 28 - December 1 as well as for changing their estimates of signatures. Opposition concerns that the CNE would issue new rules after the delivery had been made or that government supporters would endanger the delivery belied the fact that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] verification took longer than expected. Nonetheless, the opposition appears to have been willing to pay the price for credibility, an important measure as the GOV continues to attack their numbers. [REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



McFarland

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED